

Literary Notes.

Among the most valuable features of Dr. Barrows's great history of the Parliament are a table of contents prepared by Dr. Leonard Woolsey Bacon, a series of seventeen chapters which bring together what the great faiths had to say about God and Man and Redemption, the Family Life, the Ultimate Religion, a series of more than three hundred portraits and other pictures splendidly reproduced, a fine account of the Scientific Section, reports of more than thirty Denominational and Inter-denominational Congresses held in connection with the Parliament, two interesting concluding chapters written by Dr. Barrows giving his summary and conclusions in regard to the Parliament, and a scholarly index with biographical notes.

The Best Men Wanted.

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Marriages.

ROUSHE-THOMPSON.—Feb. 4th in the Poney creek congregation at the residence of the bride's parents, Sister Maude Thompson and Emerson Roushe were united in marriage, in the presence of a few intimate friends.

JNO. N. BRUNWORTH.

Our Dead.

BIGGS.—William Biggs was born in Wayne Co., Ind., June 14th, 1822. Departed this life Jan. 16, 1894; Aged 71 years, 7 mo., 2 days. He moved from Wayne to Miami Co., in 1844, being one of the early settlers. He was married to Nancy Worl, in 1845. To this union was born six children, 4 sons and 2 daughters. 3 sons with his wife preceded him to the spirit world. In 1862 he again married Mary E. Kesler, to which union was born 4 children. One died in infancy; in all he leaves a wife and six children to mourn his loss. Funeral in the Loree Brethren Church conducted by Rev. Philip Erbaugh.

J. M. FOX.

SUTTON.—Emma Sutton, daughter of James and Amanda Daniels, born Miami Co., Ind., Oct. 20th, 1894. Married Joseph F. Sutton Dec. 4, 1890. Died Jan. 31, 1894. Aged, 19 years, 3 months, 11 days. Funeral held in the Loree Brethren church to a large congregation of people, by the writer.

JOHN M. FOX.

HIS RANDOM SHOTS.

A CLERGYMAN'S OBSERVATIONS ON PREACHERS AND PREACHING.

Rev. Madison C. Peters, Pastor of the Bloomingdale Reformed Church, New York, Discusses Empty Dignity, Dullness and Cant in the Pulpit.

A homely but true adage is, "A sermon, like a pudding, must have something in it." I have heard men preach who would have made as good sportsmen as the Irishman who aimed at nothing and hit it every time.

Painful Preaching.

Good old Andrew Fuller once exclaimed, "Oh, the holiness of their living and the painfulness of their preaching!" The want of brains in a preacher is a capital defect, and no amount of moral and spiritual excellence will make a stupid man a successful preacher.

Fling Away Your Stilts.

Our young men are apt to come from our theological "cemeteries" on stilts, their heads so brimful of wisdom that they have to stand straight as an arrow lest they spill over, and it takes them years before they come down to the people. They are kid gloved, talented, philosophical, rhetorical and orthodox. But no signs follow. Fishers who catch no fish, soldiers who give and get no wounds. They complain, but their empty pews, small salaries and no results are what they deserve. Come down from that high platform of empty dignity and let the people feel that the heart of the minister is with them. Do not "parsonificate" the gospel. The man who has no geniality about him had better be an undertaker. He may succeed with the dead, but he won't with the living.

Dull Sermons.

When Edward Irving published four discourses under the title of "Orations," he gave as the reason that the very word "sermon" was indicative of dullness. A sermon should be a thing of life and beauty. It need not be great, eloquent, magnificent, but instead of dull, drowsy and dry platitudes and glittering generalities put something in the sermon to glow, brighten, convince, subdue—"thoughts that breathe and words that burn."

Speaking Truth as Fiction.

A preacher asked Garrick, the tragedian, "Why is it you are able to produce so much more effect with the recital of your fictions than we do by the delivery of the most important truths?" "My lord," said Garrick, "you speak truths as if they were fictions; we speak fictions as if they were truths." The want of rhetorical culture and oratorical ability is one of the greatest and most constant causes of failure in the pulpit. Fifty pastoral visits during the week, sipping tea, flattering the women and kissing the babies, will not keep awake on Sunday the men who all the week run up against this lightning footed century.

Canting Religion.

Many ministers the moment they get into the pulpit change their voices and drawl, cant, moan, croak and funeralize religion with a countenance grave enough to break an undertaker's heart.

Man's forgiveness may be true and sweet, But yet he stoops to give it. More complete Is love that lays forgiveness at thy feet, And pleads with thee to raise it.
—Adelaide Procter.

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BOOKS FOR THE MINISTERIAL COURSE.

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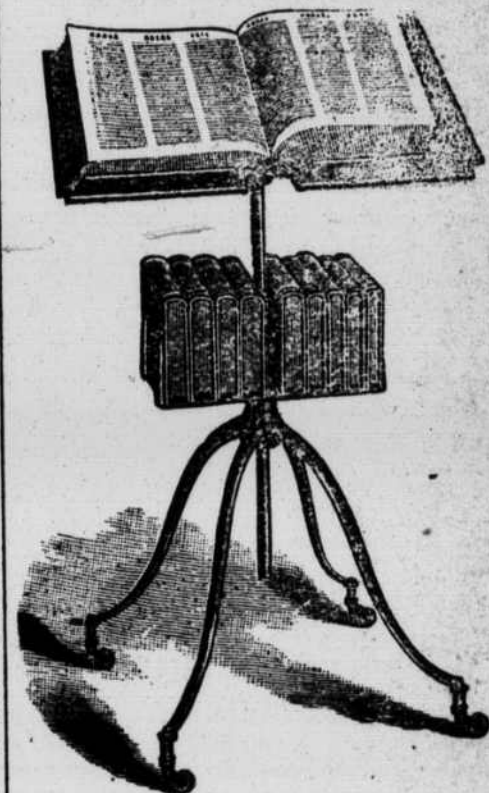


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